

[Mr. R. Nilacanta Pillai]

appointments of the Inspector of English schools and the Inspector of Vernacular schools have been merged in the cadre of the new Division Inspectors. There will also be an Inspectress of Girls' schools who will continue to exercise jurisdiction over the whole State in respect of all Girls' schools except the Primary schools for Girls, which will be under the control of the respective Division Inspectors. The Inspectress of Schools will have an Assistant Inspectress to inspect the Vernacular High and Middle schools for Girls. The number of Assistant Inspecting Officers has been fixed at 31, excluding the Mahomedan Inspector and the Assistant Inspectress under the Inspectress and the whole State is divided into as many districts. Under the old system, there were 2 Assistant Inspectors of English Middle schools, 21 Assistant Inspectors of Vernacular schools and 16 Assistant Inspectresses of Girls' schools. All these Assistant Inspecting Officers have been merged into one cadre under the Division Inspectors and the total strength raised from 29 to 31 by abolishing the offices of Personal Assistants to the Inspectors of English and of Vernacular schools and placing them in charge of districts. The Assistant Inspecting Officers will be in charge of all Primary schools, whether for boys or for girls, within their jurisdiction. The posts of the Deputy Director of Public Instruction and the Vice Principal of the Training College have been abolished. The Education Reforms Committee in their report emphasised the necessity for greater control of expenditure in the department and as proposed by them, a Financial Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction was appointed temporarily towards the close of the current year to be in charge of the Accounts branch of the Office of the Director of Public Instruction and also to be responsible for the internal audit of all departmental accounts and the proper maintenance of month-by-month expenditure and its check and control. The Financial Assistant so appointed is proposed to be continued temporarily next year also. The ministerial staff in the Director's office has been strengthened during the current year. Geography has been made a compulsory subject for the School Leaving Certificate Examination according to the revised scheme. The absence of teachers, whether in Departmental or Private schools, qualified to teach the subject on modern scientific lines is therefore a serious drawback. To remove this defect, arrangements have been made for a course of lectures in Geography being given to the teaching staff by an expert from Madras fully conversant with up-to-date methods of teaching the subject. To suit the convenience of all teachers who may be desirous of taking advantage of this course of lectures, the lectures have been arranged to be given during the Christmas holidays. The Education Reforms Committee have suggested, among other things, that with a view to encourage the continuance of Depressed class pupils in the schools of the State, tangible recognition should be given to the efforts made by Managers and teachers to retain those pupils in their schools and to devote special attention to their progress from class to class. The Committee have accordingly suggested the payment of additional grants-in-aid to private schools in proportion to the number of Depressed class pupils, found fit